

Esther Walker Honored for Her Contributions to Town

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Duxbury Selectmen honored Esther Walker, 95, of Cove Street this week for her community spirit and generous donations to the Council on Aging and the police department.

Selectmen presented Walker with a certificate of appreciation, stating that she was an inspiration to many with her contributions to her community and her active lifestyle. Walker has been involved in many activities offered by the Council on Aging, such as the Senior Center police academy, strength training, water color painting and the Crafty Ladies. She was also honored for her donation of \$11,500 to pay for a driver of the Council on Aging's handicapped accessible van. This donation will help pay for medical transportation to local and Boston hospitals, said COA director Joanne Moore.

Moore expressed her gratitude toward Walker with a short speech, a gift and a bouquets of roses. Moore said that Walker had a "zest for life" and she was always ready to greet those she knew with "a gentle smile and a big hug."

"We are thankful for her," said Moore. "She has taught us to live like you mean it and share with those in need."

During the applause for Moore's comments, the other beneficiary of Walker's generosity spoke up. The Police K-9 dog, Zar, seemed to bark

in appreciation of Walker, who also donated \$1,500 for a bullet-proof vest for him.

In the audience to congratulate Walker were Police Chief Mark Deluca, Lt. Susan James, K-9 Officer Ryan Cavicchi, members of the Council on Aging and Walker's friends and family.

In other business, selectmen:

- Voted unanimously not to support an Annual Town Meeting article that would change the day of the local elections from a Saturday to a Tuesday. Resident Doug Carver is proposing this article in order to increase voter participation. He feels people don't want to give up time on a Saturday to vote for local officials. Selectmen disagreed. They said that getting to the polls on a Tuesday is more difficult for those people who work in Boston and that it may cost the town more to hold the local elections on a

Tuesday because the polls would have to open earlier and close later to accommodate commuters. Also, they worried about the impact on the schools, where voting takes place.

- Voted unanimously to support an Annual Town Meeting article that seeks to swap 1.65 acres of water department land off Franklin Street near Jeremiah Drive with 16,150 square feet of conservation land on Birch Street near the existing Birch Street water tank to allow the town to build the new \$2.95 million water tank while still using the old tank. This exchange requires approval from town meeting, the conservation commission and the state legislature because it requires changing the use of conservation land. The swap provides access to a landlocked piece of conservation land off Franklin Street.